



H.Con.Res. 154 – Expressing the sense of Congress that the fatal radiation poisoning of Russian dissident and writer Alexander Litvinenko raises significant concerns about the potential involvement of elements of the Russian Government in Mr. Litvinenko's death and about the security and proliferation of radioactive materials

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 154 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) on May 22, 2007. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs approved the resolution by unanimous consent on February 27, 2008.

H.Con.Res. 154 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 154 resolves that the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, that:

- The fatal radiation poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko raises significant concerns about the potential involvement of elements of the Russian Government in Mr. Litvinenko's death, and about the security and proliferation of radioactive materials;
- The use of such radioactive materials in such cases demonstrates a threat to the safety and security of the people of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries; and
- The President of the United States and the Secretary of State should urge Russian President Vladimir Putin and other officials of the Russian Government to cooperate fully with the British Government in its investigation into Mr. Litvinenko's death and to ensure the security of the production, storage, distribution, and export of polonium-210 as a material that may become dangerous to large numbers of people if utilized by terrorists.

BACKGROUND

Alexander Litvinenko was a Russian author who died from radiation poisoning caused by ingesting the radioactive element polonium-210 on November 23, 2006, according to an autopsy conducted by British health officials. Prior to moving to Great Britain, where Mr. Litvinenko was a resident and citizen, he served as an agent and official in the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. Mr. Litvinenko was fired from the Federal Security Service in 1998. He was later arrested and incarcerated without conviction for an alleged criminal act after accusing high-level officials of the Federal Security Service of crimes.

On May 22, 2007, British authorities announced that they will seek to prosecute Russian citizen Andrei Lugovoi for the murder of Mr. Litvinenko. The Administration has urged Russia to fully comply with Britain's investigation and extradition requests.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.